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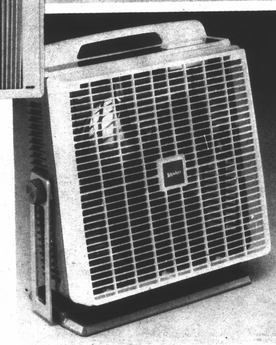

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July Flyer Wk 26

TIMES-VIRGINI

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COUR

Volume 93 - Number 26 | Deadline: 2 p.m. Tuesday | Appomattox, (Va.) - Times-Virginian - June 30, 1983 | Copy Price: 25 Cents | ns — 26 Pages

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All about dairying

Dairy farming in Appomattox County is the focus of a special 20-page supplement in this week's Times-Virginian.

Dairy farming ranks second only to forestry in terms of revenue-producing forms of agriculture in Appomattox County.

The special section includes stories and photos from many of the dairy operations in Appomattox County.

Office to close

The Times-Virginian newspaper office will be closed Monday in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Friday will be a full-production day at the newspaper, and news sources and advertisers are encouraged to prepare their material in time for Friday production.

The office will re-open for normal operation hours on Tuesday. The paper will be published at the regular time next week.

Roaring

LET 'ER RIP!....One of the many souped-up tractors in Saturday's truck and tractor pull at Appomattox goes into high gear during competition. The pulling event, sponsored by the Appomattox County Young Farmers, attracted a crowd of more than 2,000 to watch the high-performance vehicles tear down the dirt run, straining under the burden of the weight prescribed for each vehicle's classification. (Photo by Jeff Spitzer)

In Appomattox County

Fraud is target of local welfare team

By BILL SHERROD

Welfare Fraud is a serious offense. Ask Randy Williams, fraud coordinator for Appomattox County's Department of Social Services.

Williams, who has served as welfare fraud coordinator for the past three years, is also the Department of Social Services' food stamp eligibility worker. The two jobs go hand-in-hand.

Williams says that the fraud caseload in Appomattox is "about average" for a county this size. But, in recent years, the incidence of welfare fraud has been increasing everywhere.

For example, Williams had five fraud warrents in one week alone, recently.

"There are other cases we could take to court, if we stretched it," Williams notes. "But in many cases we try to work with the family to get the money back rather than prosecuting."

"And," Williams adds, "unless we have a strong case, we usually won't go to court. There are some cases that we believe involve fraud, but we don't have enough proof."

The way in which any particular case is handled depends on the circumstances of that case. For example, if an over issuance of food stamps has occured because of a misunderstanding of the rules regulating the food stamp program, or if it is obvious that the case in question did not attempt to intentionally defraud the county, then chances are a retribution plan will be worked out, rather than prosecution.

"But, if a person sits here and intentionally lies to me to try to get benefits that they do not qualify for, then we will try to get a warrent on them" Williams says.

Williams supervises the food stamp program in Appomattox County. Merle Nash and Barry Elder are the food stamp workers. If they believe that fraud has occured, they work with Williams, and together they compute the amount of overissuance.

Once Williams and his workers have determined that there has definitely been fraud, they go to the County Director of Social Services, Virginia Babcock, with the information they have assembled. If Babcock agrees that there is a case for fraud, Williams takes the information to the Commonwealth's Attorney to seek a warrent.

"The Commonwealth's Attorney has been very supportive of the anti-fraud program," William notes.

According to the state code, fraud consists of any "false statements, representations, impersonations, or fraudulent devices." As with any other crime, if the amount of overissuance is more then $200, the fraud is classified as grand larceny.

"This includes lying to us, or failing to notify us in the event of a change of circumstances," such as employment or income, according to Williams.

"We also have problems with employers participating in fraudulence," Williams said. According to the state code, an employer, if he "aids or abets" a person in receiving welfare benefits to which they are not entitled, can be prosecuted for fraud as well.

"Anyone who believes that there is a specific case of fraud can call us and give us the information anonymously," William notes.

While there has been a general increase in the occurance of welfare fraud in Appomattox County, Williams says that the county "does not have a real serious problem. The big problems are in the larger cities and urban areas."

"But we are aware that the problem exists here in Appomattox County," Williams concludes. "We are taking it seriously and we are willing to take action, press charges, and go to court against anyone in the county who commits fraud."

Gallagher goes for preaching record

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

Looking tired but determined, the Rev. Ron Gallagher leaned on the pulpit as he proclaimed the truths of the Bible to the handful of people in the congregation late Tuesday afternoon.

Gallagher, pastor of the Appomattox Baptist Temple, just outside the Town of Appomattox on Route 727, began preaching the marathon on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. It is his aim to set a world record by preaching for 120 hours, ending at 10 a.m. Friday.

At 3 p.m. Tuesday, he resumed preaching after taking a five hour break earned by saving his allotment of time-out for each hour.

"I wondered what some of my members would think. I wondered if they might be asking, 'Why are you doing this crazy thing?'" said Gallagher, speaking in an even, clearly understood manner.

"I think the bottom line is that I want to make some kind of statement attesting to the urgency and importance of preaching. I don't mean that people are not paying any attention to preachers. I do think, however, they take preaching and preachers for granted," Gallagher said.

Gallagher, who drinks liquid protein, milkshakes, and takes vitamins to keep going, has been training for approximately 30 days for the preaching marathon.

"If only one life is changed by this preaching, then I would gladly do it again," said the minister in a gentle tone.

The members of his congregation have been kidding him about being 'long-winded' and he replied, "One of these days, I am going to preach the word of God for as long as I want to."

"I am not doing this in a light, frivilous manner," said the 37 year old Gallagher "and I don't want my efforts to be taken that way."

"I'm not preaching because I believe we'll have a Utopia. I want people to know that I am just an ordinary preacher, doing what I believe I have to do."

"I hope my efforts will do two things, stimulate curiosity, and interest. If an individual is curious, he will become interested, if he is interested, he will listen, and when he listens he will think. And, maybe, just maybe, one life will be changed because God came into their life as a result of my preaching."

Asked how he felt physically he replied,"Right now my left foot hurts. But, all in all, I feel pretty good. Then there are times when I seem to kind of 'come and go'" he said with a smile.

"I cannot believe the tremendous response of the people who have been here with me," commented Gallagher.

Gallagher's wife, Peggy, has been with him almost continuously. She went to bed on Monday morning early and grabbed a 30 minute nap.

"I know he had to do what he believed was God's will for his life and I couldn't interfere," she commented as she arranged for the local radio station to pick up the message at a given time.

Norma Martin, who has been a member of Gallagher's church since 1976 has been a faithful member of his congregation since he began preaching.

"When he said he was going to do it, I knew he would be successful and that God would get all the glory," she commented.

Buddy Martin, Norma's husband, has been at the church since 7:30 Monday evening and plans to stay until the marathon is over.

"I will have to lie down once in a while," said Martin who is disabled because of a back ailment, but I will keep listening."

Determined to break the Guinness Book of World Records, 96 hours and 52 minutes, Gallagher continues to preach.....his longest sermon ever!

THE REV. RON GALLAGHER of Appomattox Baptist Temple conducts sermon about midway through his preaching marathon. (Photo by Frances Paulette)

Trash pick-up in town will be Tuesday next week

The town trash truck will not pick up trash in Appomattox Monday, according to town manager Bill Britton. The town employees have a holiday Monday in observance of July 4.

Trash pick-up will be conducted on Tuesday, according to Britton.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

The Sunny South at its very best, as we round the hot corner headed for July. Appomattox looks good. Indeed, it is a great place to spend your vacation! Saw an old friend yesterday. In my back yard. A squirrel I named "The Martha Street Strutter." Has been around several years and is not so nimble anymore. Or, too lazy to climb a nearby tree as I approached him.

Sad news in my garden. I ordered and planted a novely item, a bamboo. Promptly died. And so did the pampass grass. But have fifty sunflowers. As I recall it, there is a special time in gardens and that is when the watermelons and cukes put out runners. Sorta feel you have it made then. Had fifteen blooms on the magnolia.

* * *

Sports fans attention. A special commemorative postage stamp is being issued July 6 to honor baseball's mighty Babe Ruth. I asked at the local post office and, yes, it will be a twenty cent stamp.

* * *

If you're writing me that day, put a Babe Ruth stamp on the envelope and I'll have a first day cancellation. Once, back in the late 1920's, I met The Bambino in person, but I've told about that before.

* * *

The Lewis Family had a reunion at the homeplace here Sunday. Large attendance, and congratulations to a fine family.

Last week I wrote about rivers in Virginia and named a few. Today let us see how many Virginia cities you can name. How about thirty-six, such as: Alexandria, Bristol, Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, Colonial Heights, Covington, Danville, Falls Church, Franklin, Fredericksburg, Galax, Hampton, Harrisonburg, Hopewell, Lexington, Lynchburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Martinsville, Newport News, Norfolk, Norton, Petersburg, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Radford, Richmond, Roanoke, South Boston, Staunton, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Waynesboro, Williamsburg, Winchester.

In my basement found a copy of Lynchburg's Daily Advance dated July 18, 1917. Eight pages. Two cents per copy. World War I news dominated. Among the human interest news stories was one about the first GI's arrival and amazing the French populace by how much water they drank (instead of wine) and how much water they used in baths and showers. Even a joke column, from which I borrow this one: Master of ceremonies: "Our star soloist will now sing 'Til The Boys Come Home." Voice in audience: "Blimey, I thought it was only a two hour show." Or, maybe this one. An officer passed a recruit on the drill field and the recruit failed to salute. Officer: "Young man, don't you know who I am?" Recruit: "I have seen you around, but I cannot call your name. No Sir." (So that is how that one got started!) This old paper was also interesting for the ads. Straw hats, $1.50. Men and boys bathing suits 75 cents up. Ladies shoes $1.50. Children's hats 39 cents.

* * *

Thanks for reading and seeya around.

After mid-air mishap

Pilot praises controller

By BILL SHERROD

Saturday night was a beautiful, noonlit eveningthe air clear and the moon almost full.

At 4,500 feet, "you could see for miles, almost as if the sun were out," said John Eigner, who with his wife Nickie were on a leisurely flight from Linden, N.J. to Lynchburg to visit relatives in Lynchburg and Appomattox.

The Eigners were in a 1968 Mooney Executive aircraft, a high-performance plane with a single, 200 horsepower fuel-injected engine.

A little before 10:30 p.m., John called Lynchburg Municipal Airport to get the vectors (direction information) to Falwell Airport.

About five minutes after Eigner had called the airport, there was a loud "thud" outside the cockpit, and the plane started to shudder violently.

"The vibration was incredible," Eigner recounts. "I called Lynchburg (airport) and told them that I had a bad vibration and may have lost a cylinder or a piece of the prop."

The plane rapidly lost 1,000 feet of altitude. Eigner noticed that the engine's oil pressure was holding up, so he knew that if he could reduce the vibration, chances were excellent that he could maintain power and hold altitude all the way into the Lynchburg airport.

Bob Willis, the air traffic controller on duty at the time in the Lynchburg tower, called Eigner and asked if the aircraft was transponder-equipped. Eigner said it was, and switched on the device. The exact location of the aircraft was then pinpointed with the help of a Washington, D.C. air traffic control radar unit.

"I was 18 miles from Falwell airport, and at 180 degrees, 18 miles from the airport at Farmville," Eigner says. The Lynchburg Municipal Airport was 23 miles away.

The air traffic control tower at Lynchburg normally closes at 10:30. But Willis stayed with Eigner until he got the plane down.

"Once I had pulled the power back and trimmed the airplane, the vibration was reduced," Eigner says. "I was able to slowly regain altitude. I held altitude until I was over the airport, then I came down. Bob stayed with me, and he closed the airport until I was on the ground," Eigner says.

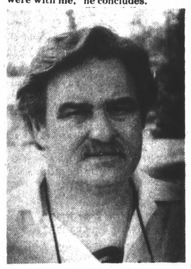
After he was safe on the ground, Eigner inspected the airplane and found a four- to five-inch section gone from the end of the propeller. "I must have hit a large bird," Eigner says. "I probably flew through a flock of geese. They fly at night at high altitudes, and my wife says she remembers seeing what appeared to be light-colored spots sailing past the cockpit before the collision.

The portion of the propeller which was severed in the collision flew clear of the airplane. "We were lucky," Eigner says. "That tip end of the prop moves faster than the speed of sound. You can imagine what would have happened if it had come through the windshield."

Eigner, who was in Appomattox Monday visiting Wayne and Margie Moore, said that his wife Nickie was "a little shaken when it happened, but she remained calm. She asked me if we were going to crash. I said no, and she didn't say another word until we were down."

"I have nothing but praise for the air traffic controllers at Lynchburg and in Washington who helped me," Eigner continued. "Bob was supposed to be off duty, but he stayed with me all the way down, and he closed the airport until I had landed."

Eigner, who has been a pilot for 15 years, says this is the first time he has ever had a potentially hazardous mishap. "It was very comforting knowing the controllers were with me," he concludes.



John Eigner